

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8842

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-MRN 3412 VICE 23412

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP: FRENCH PROPOSAL

REF: (A) GENEVA 6459, (B) USUN 2776.

1. IN PARA 4 REFTEL A, DEPT GUIDANCE ON SUBSTANCE OF FRENCH PROPOSAL WAS REQUESTED BY US MISSION GENEVA "BY FIRST WEEK IN SEPTMEBER." USUN SUGGESTS THAT FOLLOWING BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY DEPT IN PREPARING REPLY. OVERALL, OR VIEWS ON SUBJECT REMAIN ESSENTIALLY AS REPORTED REFTEL B, SUPPLEMENTED AS BELOW.

2. AS FOR UN PER SE, WE BELIEVE THAT "PROGRAM ANALYSIS" APPROACH WHEREBY WE MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT TO INFLUENCE PROGRAM BUDGET CONTENT AND THUS BUDGET GROWTH HAS NOT BEEN SERIOUSLY ATTEMPTED. WE DO NOT AGREE, THEREFORE, WITH ASSERTION CONTINED PARA 3 REFTEL A THAT "THIS APPROACH DEMONSTRABLY HAD NOT WORKED" AND THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT FRENCH PROPOSAL HAD BEEN SURFACED.

3. REGARDING "LEGAL COMPLICATIONS" IN FRANCH PROPOSAL, CLEARLY WE SEE NONE IF PURPOSE SIMPLY IS FOR MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANNOUNCE IN ADVNCE WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE ACCEPTABLE BUDGET

LEVEL, SO LONG AS THEY MEET IN FULL THEIR ASSESSMENTS AS LEVIED BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ON OTHER HAND, ON OTHER HAND, IF MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS HAVE ANNOUNCED ACCEPTABLE BUDGET LEVEL AND REFUSE TO PAY THEIR ASSESSMENTS BEYOND THAT AMOUNT EVEN IF UNGA APPROVES HIGHER BUDGET LEVEL, THEN WE SEE EXTREMELY SERIOUS LEGAL (VIOLATION OF TREATY OBLIGATION) AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

4. SHOULD FRENCH PROPOSAL BE LIMITED TO MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS STATING WHAT THEY THINK BUDGET LEVEL SHOULD BE, THIS IS LIKELY TO BE ONLY marginally EFFECTIVE IN DETERMINING FINAL BUDGET LEVEL. IF MAJORITY REJECT MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS' "CEILING" THROUGH UNGA ADOPTION OF HIGHER BUDGET LEVEL, RESULT WOULD BE TO HAVE EXPENDED MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS' CREDIBILITY NOT ONLY TO GET LITTLE, IF ANYTHING, IN RETURN BUT ALSO TO UNDERMINE WHAT CREDIBILITY WE STILL HAVE IN THIS AREA.

5. OVERALL, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO SIMPLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF CONTINUED UN PROGRAM BUDGET GROWTH AND HAVE STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT FRENCH PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT APPEARS TO US TO BE JUST THAT--TOO SIMPLISTIC AND UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE REAL RESULTS. IN CONCERT WITH OTHER UN DELEGATIONS, ESPECIALLY MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS, WE MUST CONCENTRATE ON FORMULATING WAYS TO INFLUENCE NEW AND/OR EXPANDED UN PROGRAMS AT THEIR DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE, AND TO IDENTIFY AND MAKE AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO WEED OUT THOSE PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR USEFULNESS. IF STRICT AUSTERITY IS TO BE APPLIED TO UN PROGRAMS--AS WE THINK IT SHOULD AT THIS POINT IN TIME--CERTAIN BUDGET ECONOMIES ARE LIKELY TO FOLLOW. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE SUCH AN EFFORT AND CAN ASSESS RESULTS OBTAINED, WE THINK THAT USG ACCEPTANCE OF FRENCH APPROACH, HOWEVER CONDITIONAL, CAN ONLY COMPLICATE AND MAKE MORE DIFFICULT OUR EFFORTS TO HOLD DOWN UN EXPENDITURES.

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